

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 SPC-03 NSC-07

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 AGR-20 AID-20

IGA-02 EB-11 DRC-01 /148 W

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R 311144Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0997

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

USMISSION GENEVA

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LONDON FOR IMCO

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJ: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: A. STATE 042239

B. AMMAN A-003

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE EMBASSY'S EVALUATION OF THE UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN JORDAN. THIS EVALUATION IS BASED ON ONLY LIMITED DIRECT EXPOSURE TO UN PROGRAMS. IN CONTRAST TO SOME COUNTRIES WHERE US HAS AID PERSONNEL IN POSITIONS TO OBSERVE UNDP ACTIVITIES AT FIRST HAND, IN JORDAN OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JUDGEMENTS MUST BE BASED LARGELY ON INTERVIEWS AND

PERIODIC INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH UN AND HOST COUNTRY PERSONNEL.
THE LETTERED PARAGRAPHS CORRESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS IN REF A.

A. AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL UNDP RESREP MAINTAINS
EFFECTIVE WORKING RELATIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT AND OTHER
ELEMENTS OF UN SYSTEM. FAO IS THE ONLY SPECIALIZED AGENCY
WITH MAJOR EFFORT HERE AND FAO CHIEF APPEARS TO ACCEPT
LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION FROM RESREP. RESREP HIMSELF
FEELS THAT CONTROL OVER FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS
PROVIDE HIM ADEQUATE LEVERAGE TO COORDINATE THE UN'S OVER-
ALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
THE IBRD IS THE EXECUTING AGENCY FOR A UNDP PROJECT
TO IMPROVE THE GOJ'S ECONOMIC PLANNING CAPABILITY. THERE
SHOULD BE NO CONFLICT BETWEEN IBRD AND UNDP ACTIVITIES
AS THE MANAGER OF THIS PROJECT IS ALSO THE BANK'S REP IN JORDAN.
SO FAR AS THE BANK'S LENDING HAS BEEN CHIEFELY FOR INFRASTRU-
CTURE PROJECTS.
THE CURRENT RESREP ARRIVED A FEW MONTHS AGO, BUT WAS
DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE HERE IN THE LATE 1960'S. IN FACT, WE
UNDERSTAND GOJ ASKED THAT HE BE RETURNED AS RESREP.
UNICEF HAS AN OFFICE IN AMMAN BUT IS REPRESENTED
ONLY BY JORDANIAN LIAISON OFFICER. IT IS NOT PARTICIPATING
IN THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE.

B. THE NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL IS THE GOJ AGENCY
RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING AND COORDINATION. AT
TIMES IN PAST, NPC HAS SPONSORED MEETINGS OF DONORS AND
GOJ OFFICIALS, BUT THEY HAVE BEEN VERY INFREQUENT AND NONE
HAS BEEN HELD FOR AT LEAST 6-8 MONTHS. HOWEVER, BEGINNING
TWO MONTHS AGO THE UN RESREP INITIATED MONTHLY LUNCHEON
MEETINGS OF THE MAJOR DONORS (UN, U.K., W. GERMANY AND U.S.)
WITH SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NPC TO DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS AND
EXCHANGE INFORMATION. THE RESREP HAS ENCOURAGED THE NPC TO HOST
REGULAR MEETINGS OF MAJOR DONORS AND GOJ PLANNERS, THUS FAR
WITHOUT SUCCESS.

C. COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEWS ARE UNDERWAY AND SHOULD BE
COMPLETED IN EARLY SUMMER. THESE REVIEWS INVOLVE
PARTICIPATION BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UN EXECUTING AGENCY,
THE NPC AND GOJ MINISTRY INVOLVED. ACCORDING TO RESREP,
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SO FAR THE REVIEWS HAVE INDICATED THE NECESSITY FOR SOME
BUDGET CUTS, BUT NO PROJECTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE DISCONTINUED
PREMATURELY.

D. THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW UNDP PROJECT PROPOSALS
SINCE THE RECEIPTS OF A-1149 AND AIDTO CIRCULAR A-676.

E. ACCORDING TO THE RESREP, GOJ COUNTERPART

CONTRIBUTIONS AND PERSONNEL ARE ADEQUATE.

F. THE TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM HAS BEEN INITIATED HERE FOR ALL PROJECTS IN WHICH THE UNDP CONTRIBUTION IS AT LEAST \$100,000. ACCORDING TO THE ASSISTANT RESREP, THESE REVIEWS ARE STILL IN THE INITIAL STAGE, WITH PROJECT MANAGERS WORKING ON THEIR EVALUATIONS.

G. UN RESREP APPEARS TO BE INTELLIGENT MAN WITH GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF AND PREPARATION FOR COUNTRY PROGRAMMING. HE HAS BEEN WITH UNDP FOR ONLY TEN YEARS OR SO, BUT HAS BEEN INVOLVED PRIMARILY IN PROGRAM AND PLANNING TYPE FUNCTIONS DURING THAT PERIOD. IT APPEARS TO US, HOWEVER, THAT UNDP HEADQUARTERS IS NOT STAFFED VERY WELL TO DO ANY SERIOUS PROGRAMMING. RESREP HAS ONLY HIS DEPUTY AND ONE JUNIOR EMPLOYEE TO HELP HIM WITH OVERALL UN MISSION FUNCTIONS. WITH THE MANY OPERATIONAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND REPRESENTATIONAL PRESSURES WHICH CONVERGE ON RESREP, HE MUST HAVE SCANT OPPORTUNITY TO DO THE KIND OF PRIORITY BALANCING, PROJECT ANALYSIS, EVALUATION, ETC., THAT SHOULD BE PART OF ANY COUNTRY PROGRAMMING PROCESS. BUT HE HAS ALMOST NO STAFF TO DO IT EITHER. CONSEQUENTLY, WHEN ONE TALKS OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMING IN UN CONTEXT, IT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP IN MIND THE LIMITS IMPOSED BY PRESENT STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS.

2. REF B INCLUDES SUPPLEMENTARY DETAILS ON UNDP ACTIVITIES IN JORDAN.
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